

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 131650
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 /075 R

DRAFTED BY USOAS:MDION:NR
APPROVED BY S THE SECRETARY
L/ARA -FARMSTRONG
USOAS - REWHITE
ARA - WHLUERS
ARA/MEX - HLANE
D/HA - MSCHNEIDER
-----080410Z 108450 /21
P 080135Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 131650

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, HR

SUBJECT: LETTER TO FONMIN ON MAIN ISSUES AT OASGA

1. IN HIS MEETING WITH FONMIN ROEL ON MAY 26, THE SECRETARY AND ROEL DISCUSSED TWO IMPORTANT ISSUES IN INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS AND REFORM OF THE OAS. THE SECRETARY SAID WE WOULD MAKE PROPOSALS ON EACH AT THE OASGA IN GRENADA AND PROMISED FONMIN ROEL A LETTER DETAILING OUR VIEWS IN ADVANCE OF THE JUNE 14 MEETING. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SECRETARY'S LETTER:

2. DEAR SANTIAGO:

IT WAS A PLEASURE TO HAVE YOU BACK IN WASHINGTON. I BELIEVE
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WE HAVE PUT IN MOTION THE PROCESS OUR PRESIDENTS ADVOCATED THE LAST TIME YOU WERE HERE. I ALSO THINK THAT OUR EX-CHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE OAS WAS USEFUL AND, AS PROMISED, AM SENDING YOU THE THOUGHTS I WILL PUT BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND REFORM OF THE OAS.

THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS HAS

CLEARLY TROUBLED MANY GOVERNMENTS OF THE HEMISPHERE. SOME HAVE CHARACTERIZED OUR CONCERN AS INTERFERENCE IN THEIR

INTERNAL AFFAIRS. WE BELIEVE THAT A VARIETY OF UN AND OAS TREATIES AND DECLARATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS GIVE INTERNATIONAL SANCTION TO OUR CONCERN. EVEN SO, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, ACTION IN THIS AREA SHOULD BE MULTILATERAL IN NATURE.

WE BELIEVE THE MOST PRACTICAL MULTILATERAL MEANS FOR PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE HEMISPHERE IS TO STRENGTHEN THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. IF THIS ISSUE IS TO BE ADDRESSED SUCCESSFULLY IN A MULTILATERAL FORUM, THE IAHRM NEEDS MORE FUNDS AND PERSONNEL TO HANDLE ITS MOUNTING CASELOAD. GOVERNMENTS SHOULD COOPERATE MORE CLOSELY WITH THE IAHRM. SPECIFICALLY, THEY SHOULD PERMIT ON SITE VISITS THAT WOULD REMOVE CHARGES FROM THE ARENA OF PARTISAN PROPAGANDA.

WITHOUT SUCH STEPS, BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE BOUND TO SUFFER WHEN STATES COMMITTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS TAKE ACTION TO UPHOLD A COMMON TRADITION. THE US HAS NO INTEREST IN CONFRONTATION, BUT IF THE MULTILATERAL MACHINERY OF THE OAS REMAINS HOBBOLED, WE WOULD BE FACED WITH TAKING ACTIONS ON A BILATERAL BASIS ONLY.

IN OUR OPINION, IT IS A CONTRADICTION FOR STATES TO ASSERT THAT UNILATERAL EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ARE INTERVENTION AND THEN TO FRUSTRATE THE WORK OF A MULTILATERAL CONFIDENTIAL

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BODY THEY HAVE THEMSELVES HELPED TO ESTABLISH. THE US WILL THEREFORE ANNOUNCE AT GRENADA THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO EXTEND AUTHORIZATION TO THE IAHRM TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES OF ABUSE IN OUR TERRITORY. WE HOPE OTHER STATES WILL CONSIDER DOING LIKEWISE.

WE HAVE A NUMBER OF OTHER THOUGHTS ON HOW WE MIGHT EXPAND INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS. WE COULD:

-- BROADEN THE MANDATE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE TO STUDY PENAL CODES AND PRISON CONDITIONS IN OAS MEMBER STATES. THIS WOULD EXPAND THE SCOPE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES IN THE ORGANIZATION BY INVOLVING ONE OF THE LESS ACTIVE ENTITIES WHILE NOT DIVERTING THE IAHRM INTO MORE SPECIFICALLY JURIDICAL STUDIES.

-- SEEK AGREEMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION TO SPONSOR ADDITIONAL SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES ON HUMAN

RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN THIS HEMISPHERE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE OAS.

-- DISCUSS

WHETHER THE OAS OR THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MIGHT PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE SETTLEMENT AND MOVEMENT OF POLITICAL REFUGEES.

I WOULD VALUE YOUR REACTIONS TO THESE PROPOSALS AND, INDEED, YOUR COUNSEL ON HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE MULTILATERAL PURSUIT OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY JOINT ACTION AT GRENADA. MEXICO IS AS COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS ANY COUNTRY OF THIS HEMISPHERE AND COULD CONTRIBUTE MUCH TO THE SOLUTION OF THIS SENSITIVE INTER-AMERICAN PROBLEM. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE, AS A GESTURE OF SUPPORT FOR THE IAHRG, FOR YOU TO ENDORSE THE "RIGHT OF VISIT" CONCEPT AT GRENADA AS WE PROPOSE TO DO?

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AT THE SANTIAGO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH MEXICO DID NOT ATTEND, OUR DELEGATION MADE A SERIES OF SUGGESTIONS FOR RESTRUCTURING. I HAVE SINCE REVIEWED THEM CAREFULLY. I HOPE YOU WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO CONSIDER THEM. EXCEPT FOR THE IDEA TO DISBAND ALL THREE COUNCILS, IT SEEMS TO ME, THAT MOST ARE STILL VALID PROPOSALS. THE PERMANENT COUNCIL IS IN THEORY A VALUABLE ENTITY IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM AND SHOULD PROBABLY BE STRENGTHENED, PERHAPS BY ABSORBING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC/SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE EDUCATION/SCIENCE/CULTURE COUNCIL. ALL THREE ARE GENERALLY PRESIDED OVER BY THE SAME REPRESENTATIVES NOW AND MERGER WOULD END NEEDLESS DUPLICATION.

MY GOVERNMENT'S SUGGESTION FOR REDUCING ITS SHARE OF THE ASSESSED BUDGET FROM 66 TO 49 IS PART OF OUR DESIRE TO SEE A REANALYSIS OF THE OAS FINANCING. AN UPWARD REVISION OF QUOTAS, OVER A PERIOD OF FIVE OR MORE

YEARS, WOULD STRENGTHEN MEMBER STATES' IDENTIFICATION

WITH THE ORGANIZATION, END COMPLAINTS OF U.S. PREPONDER-
ANCE, AND MIGHT EVEN PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR DEALING WITH
THE THREATENED INFLUX OF MINI-STATES. BY ESTABLISHING
SOME FORM OF ASSOCIATE STATE MEMBERSHIP, PERHAPS WITHOUT
ANY ASSESSED CONTRIBUTION, WE MIGHT SUCCEED IN PRESERVING
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A REALISTIC VOTING BALANCE IN THE OAS. AT THE SAME TIME,
WE SHOULD DO AWAY WITH THE BAR TO MEMBERSHIP STIPULATED
IN CHARTER ARTICLE 8, DISCRIMINATING AGAINST AMERICAN
STATES HAVING BORDER DISPUTES WITH A CURRENT OAS MEMBER.

I WOULD APPRECIATE VERY MUCH YOUR THOUGHTS ON THESE IDEAS.

(SIGNED) CYRUS VANCE

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IF EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION,
PLEASE TYPE AND DELIVER SECRETARY'S LETTER TO FONMIN ROEL.

VANCE

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

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DRAFTED BY: USOAS: MDION:MCH

APPROVED BY: USOAS: REWHITE

-----081843Z 119060 /53

O 081800Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL RECIFE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 131650

FOR TODMAN FROM WHITE

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 131650 ACTION MEXICO JUNE 08.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 131650

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, HR

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(SIGNED) CYRUS VANCE

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IF EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION,

PLEASE TYPE AND DELIVER SECRETARY'S LETTER TO FONMIN ROEL.

VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, REORGANIZATIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: MDION:NR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2226931
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER TO FONMIN ON MAIN ISSUES AT OASGA
TAGS: PORG, PSDC, SHUM, MX, US, OAS, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (ROEL GARCIA, SANTIAGO),
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3d7aa182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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